

REMARKS

In reply to the non-final Office Action mailed September 2, 2011, please enter the amendments set forth above and consider the following remarks. By this response, Applicants cancel claims 1 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 2, 4, 6-8, 10, 12-15, and 16, and present new claims 17-22. No new matter has been added. After entry of this paper, claims 2-4 and 6-22 will be pending in this application.

In the Office action, the Examiner (i) rejected claims 1-2, 4-6, 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being anticipated by Schain et al. (US 6,944,706 B2); (ii) rejected claims 3, 8, 9, 12-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schain et al. as applied to claims 2, 5 above, and further in view of Winters et al. (US 2006/0080650 A1). With regard to the rejections, Applicants respectfully traverse, submitting that the standing rejections are unsupportable/moot/overcome as against the claims presented for at least the reasons set forth below. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC § 103 (a)

Claims 1-2, 4-6, 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being anticipated by Schain et al. (US 6,944,706 B2).

Claims 3, 8, 9, 12-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schain et al. as applied to claims 2, 5 above, and further in view of Winters et al. (US 2006/0080650 A1).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections.

As an initial matter, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 5 without prejudice or disclaimer, and respectfully submit the rejections against these claims are moot..

Further and without acquiescence, in the interests, e.g., of advancing the prosecution of this case, avoiding additional costs, etc., Applicants have canceled the rejected claims, or amended the claims to depend from a claim indicated as allowable by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants submits that the rejections are moot or now unsupported in view of the amended claims, and respectfully request that they be withdrawn.

Specifically, the Examiner indicates on page 9 of the Office Action that claim 7 is allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent

form, and claims 2-4, 6, 8-14, and 16 depend directly or indirectly on claim 7. Independent claim 15 has been amended to depend on new claim 17 which recites subject matter indicated as allowable by the Examiner (see, e.g., Office Action, pg. 9).

New Claims

Claims 17-22 are new claims presented in place of the claims canceled by Applicant without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 17-22 are either copies of existing claims (with different dependencies or additional language) or are new claims reciting features indicated to be patentable. Further, all of these claims either depend on allowable claims or recite subject matter consistent with existing allowable claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that these new claims present no new matter, and are allowable for at least the same reasons as their related claims.

Closing Remarks

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are now in condition for formal allowance, and early and favorable action to that end is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is encouraged to call Applicants' attorney at the number below if doing so will in any way advance the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is hereby petitioned to grant any extensions of time required to enter this paper as well as authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit in the overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 07-1896 referencing Attorney Docket No. 348162-982350.

Respectfully submitted,

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